

Lakefront Development Advisory Commission

Report of Recommendation

Relocating the Gen. Douglas MacArthur statue from MacArthur Square to the lakefront.

Summary of the Recommendation.

At its March 20, 2014 meeting the Lakefront Development Advisory Commission (the "Commission") passed a resolution that approved relocating the Gen. Douglas MacArthur statue from MacArthur Square to the lakefront war memorial location in concept, subject to review by the Milwaukee County Parks Department, and asked the proposers to return for a subsequent review of the master plan by the Commission.

The Commission's purpose.

The Lakefront Development Advisory Commission's purpose is to apply the criteria that have been approved by Milwaukee County and the City of Milwaukee and make nonbinding recommendations to the County, City and/or the State respecting whether a development proposal for the Lakefront should be approved. In order to accommodate consideration of its recommendations, the Commission is to issue a report that provides the basis for its recommendation. Such a report should include the Commission's understanding of the facts and record the vote of each member on the recommendation.

Commission consideration of the proposal.

This matter was sent to the Commission by Milwaukee County.

Chairman Lynch reminded the commissioners and all in attendance of the purpose of the Commission. The Commission received four pieces of correspondence about this item. The County provided a resolution and amendment. Later in the meeting, it was reported that the resolution had been passed as amended that morning.

Gregory West, representing the Veterans Community Relations Team (the Team), presented the proposal. In honor of International General MacArthur week, June 3-7, 2014, the VCRT is planning to move a statue of Gen. Douglas MacArthur to the Veterans Park area of the lakefront. The statue is currently located on a lightly used city-owned plaza and would become the property of Milwaukee County at its new location.

A plaque would be mounted at the old location. Doral Construction will move and remount the statue. The statue is 9 1/2 feet tall and would be on a plain concrete base as it is now. The statue would be lighted and a walkway to the statue would be installed. A diagram was provided showing a location for the statue southeast of the Southeastern Wisconsin Vietnam Veterans Memorial and not far from a grouping of flags.

Several commissioners commented that they usually see plans for proposed lakefront development, the information provided does not really permit the commissioners to decide in the group's favor, and that a recommendation would be premature. Because time was of the essence some commissioners suggested that the Parks Department could work closely with the group to work out matters concerning the exact location and installation.

Milwaukee County Jursik suggested that a statue in the proposed location could end up looking small.

Milwaukee County Supervisor Weishan said he thought the nearby flag poles would make a good backdrop, but that he was open to working with the Parks Department.

Some discussion ensued regarding whether the County resolution required LDAC approval or merely review and what might review mean in the context of a resolution already passed.

Does the project complies with the LDAC criteria?

As part of the presentation, the proposal was evaluated with respect to the Commission's seven principal criteria:

1. Conform to the current laws and regulations.
2. Conform to the Public Trust Doctrine.
3. Encourage active and passive recreation.
4. Preserve and protect the scenic and natural beauty of the lakefront.
5. Access to the lakefront.
6. Recognize the unique opportunities of different parts of the lakefront and allow only projects that must be at the lakefront.
7. Need for public funds.

Mary Kamps with Preserve Our Parks said that approving multiple incremental items at the lakefront, even if well intentioned, would eventually interfere with LDAC's goals for the lakefront.

Commission action.

Mr. Whaley-Smith moved to close the public meeting and made the following motion:

MOTION:

The commission approves moving the statue of General Douglas MacArthur to a lakefront war memorial location in concept because it appears to meet the commission's criteria, subject to review by the Milwaukee County Parks Department, and asks the proposers to return for a subsequent review of the master plan by the commission.

Motion was seconded by Mr. Radke. Motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Radke moved to adjourn. Seconded by Ms. St. Marie-Carls.

CONCLUSION

The Lakefront Development Advisory Commission recommends that moving the statue of General Douglas MacArthur to the lakefront meets the criteria for the Commission's consideration, but asks the proposers to return for a subsequent review of the master plan.

Respectfully submitted on behalf of LDAC,

William H. Lynch
Chairman

WHL/mjm